

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A stereomicroscope comprising:

a main objective;

an illumination source providing an illumination beam directed along an illumination axis;

a pair of lateral illumination sources each providing a lateral illumination beam directed along a respective lateral illumination axis, wherein the light frequency of the lateral illumination beams is in the ultra-violet range and the both of the lateral illumination axes extend in a direction approximately perpendicular to a direction of the illumination axis;

a composite deflection element including a deflection prism arranged in the illumination axis for deflecting the illumination beam toward the main objective[[:]] and a pair of lateral deflection elements on opposite sides of the illumination axis, one lateral deflection element in each of the lateral illumination axes, the pair of lateral deflection elements deflecting the lateral illumination beams toward the main objective, wherein at least one of the lateral deflection elements and the deflection prism has non-zero refractive power;

wherein the both of the lateral illumination axes are non-parallel approximately perpendicular to the illumination axis [[:(3)]] .

23. - 29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) The stereomicroscope as defined in ~~Claim 29~~ Claim 22, wherein each of the pair of lateral deflection elements is a concave mirror.

31. (previously presented) The stereomicroscope as defined in Claim 22, wherein each of the pair of lateral deflection elements is a prism.

32. - 33. (canceled)